

DAWLISH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.  
for the year 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council :-

This Report covers the first full year since the end of the War. It is drawn up in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circulars and is in similar form to that of 1945 and 1944.

Although the War ended in 1945 there are still some legacies of War conditions in this district. The evacuee population has left us with the exception of the L.C.C. Nursery Home which still remains at The Cliffs. The Housing shortage continues to be a great anxiety. Some of the most urgent applicants have been re-housed either in Council Houses that have been vacated or in requisitioned property. However, the promise of a proportion of the housing programme being completed in 1947 gives one something to look forward to. Many visits have been paid to those applicants in urgent need of re-housing so that changing conditions could be duly noted.

Another Public Health matter which has occupied the attention of my department has been Camping Sites. Several investigations of the latter during the summer of 1946 showed that these camps could be a serious menace to the health of the community and plans were made for a review of the whole matter so that conditions in these camps could be properly regulated and controlled.

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of infectious cases amounted to 36, a figure which would be much better but for the numerous cases of Scarlet Fever.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Cases.</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	28	17	0
Paratyphoid	1	1	0
Chicken Pox.	2	1	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Erysipilas	2	0	0
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis	1	1	0
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	1	0	0.

It is interesting to note that the only case of diphtheria which occurred in the town was contracted in South Wales by the child concerned and the child had not been immunized.

Tuberculosis. There were 8 lung cases, death of one of them has since been reported.

Diphtheria Immunization.

The response to this service continues to be very good, since the birth rate is lower than during the war years. 54 children completed the course, of which number, 42 were under 5 years of age.

Scabies has ceased to be a Public Health Problem in this district.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Population last census 7,000 but estimated figures to-day (Food Office figures) 8,400.

<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	35	31	66

Birth rate per thousand 7.9

Average Birth Rate for the last ten years 10.6.

agricultural. There were long areas of land that had been  
used.

Biographic Information.

response to this survey, continuing to be very good, since the  
lower the rating the more years of children completed the survey.  
The number of years of life.

of the country to be a problem in the future.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Population last census 7,000 but actual population 7,400.

Male	Female	Total
3,400	4,000	7,400

At the end of the year 7.9  
the last census was 10.6.

England and Wales Birth Rate (1946) 19.1 (this is the highest birth rate for the whole country since 1923).

Still Births. 2 (1 illegitimate).  
Still Birth Rate 30.3. per thousand total Births.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
<u>Deaths</u>	40	40	80

Death Rate per thousand 9.5.  
England and Wales Death Rate (1946) 11.5.

Maternal Mortality. (deaths from diseases and accidents of childbirth) Nil.

Infant Mortality. (under one year) 3.

Death Rate of Infants per thousand live births. 45.4.

Sewerage and Sewers.

During the year the Council's consultants continued their investigations into a scheme of improvement of the town's sewerage and sewage problems. It is hoped that apart from the necessary extensions a solution to the problem will be found to eliminate the fouling of parts of the beaches for the discharge of crude sewerage to the sea. This is of greater importance with each year as larger numbers of people are holidaying and spreading themselves to beaches formerly only slightly used.

There were no sewer extensions during the year, those for new Council housing were in hand but not completed.

Water Supply.

The Town's water supply has remained satisfactory both in quantity and quality, a very high standard of results being obtained from bacteriological tests made. Main extensions are in the same position as sewers above.

Milk

Shortage of staff, about which steps are being taken, have made it necessary to reduce to the minimum Inspections of Milk Producers, etc.

(Signed) Dr.H.A.Constable,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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